

“Reason for Being”

Matthew 22:37-40

Jesus replied: “ ‘Love the Lord you God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’

This is the first and greatest commandment.

And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’

All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

**All the Law and all the Prophets
are in these two tasks:**

1. Love God with all your heart

2. Love your neighbor as yourself

Three more tasks:

1. Go make disciples,
2. baptize them,
3. teach them to obey everything
He had taught

**“A Great Commitment to
the Great Commandment
and the Great Commission
will grow a Great
Church.”**

Five Purposes of the Church

Purpose #1:

“Love the Lord with all your heart”

Worship - “Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only” (Matt. 4:10)

Psalm 34:2 (NASB) says:”O magnify the Lord with me and let us exalt his name together.”

Purpose #2:

“Love your neighbor as yourself”

Ministry - The church is to “...equip the saints for the work of ministry”

(Eph. 4:12 NRSV)

Purpose #3:

“Go and make disciples”

**Evangelism - Christ gave us five Great
Commissions**

Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Mark 16:15

He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation."

Luke 24:47-49

and repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high.

John 20:21

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you!
As the Father has sent me, I am
sending you."

Acts 1:8

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."

Purpose #4:

“Going, baptizing, and teaching”

Fellowship - Identification with the body of Christ - We're called to *belong*, not just to *believe*.

Ephesians 2:19 (Living Bible) “You are members of God’s very own family...and you belong in God’s household with every other Christian.”

Purpose #5:

“Teaching them to obey”

Discipleship - Colossians 1:28 (new century version) “We continue to preach Christ to each person, using all wisdom to warn and to teach everyone, in order to bring each one into God’s presence as a *mature person in Christ.*”

“...so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole of the fullness of Christ.”

Eph. 4:12b-13

(For a summary of all five of these elements in his work see John 17.)

Paul explained them in Ephesians 4:1-16

**Clear example of all five purposes is the
first church at Jerusalem described in
Acts 2:1-47**

The Church exists to:

Edify

Encourage

Evangelize

Exalt

Equip

“A Mission Statement with 5 key words:

Magnify: We celebrate God’s presence
in worship

Mission: We communicate God’s Word
through evangelism

Membership: We incorporate God’s family into
our fellowship

Maturity: We educate God’s people through
discipleship

Ministry: We demonstrate God’s love through
service

A Mission Statement

To bring people to Jesus and membership in his family, develop them to Christlike maturity, and equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world, in order to magnify God's name.

Note 1: Stated in terms of results, rather than activity.

Note 2: Stated in a way that encourages participation by every member.

Note 3: Arranged into a sequential process.

Don't focus on growing a church with programs, focus on growing people with a process.

*“Constancy to purpose
is the secret of success”*

Four step process:

We bring people in,

Build them up,

Train them, and

Send them out

Importance of defining our purpose:

*It is not merely a target that we aim for;
it is our congregation's reason for being.*